

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1804
September 9, 2014

The Honorable Catherine Novelli
Under Secretary for Economic Growth,
Energy and the Environment
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

The Honorable Dr. Kathryn Sullivan
Administrator, National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Under Secretary Novelli and Administrator Sullivan:

I proudly represent a State with a significant culture and history of seafood harvesting and production. On the commercial side, one of the most pressing issues related to fishing and sustainability is the unlevel playing field created by illegal shrimp production in various foreign countries. As co-chairs of the Presidential Task Force on Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing and Seafood Fraud, you are aware that the sustainability of our entire U.S. shrimp industry is at stake. For the past nine years, the United States government has imposed antidumping (AD) orders on illegally dumped shrimp from foreign countries. While those AD orders have helped the industry, the recent onslaught of illegally subsidized imports is creating immediate and irrevocable harm. In fact, many shrimp harvesters in Louisiana have engaged in a work stoppage to protest the depressed domestic prices for wild-caught U.S. shrimp. This price depression is hurting hard working shrimpers in Louisiana and is directly related to hundreds of millions in illegal subsidies provided by foreign governments.

In 2012, the Coalition of Gulf Shrimp Industries initiated an international trade case challenging billions of dollars in illegal subsidies provided by foreign governments to their shrimp producers. The US Department of Commerce determined that China, Ecuador, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, and Vietnam provided approximately \$250 million in illegal subsidies in 2012 *alone*. The attached chart (*Attachment 1*) summarizes those findings. As a result of these illegal subsidies, global farmed shrimp production is projected to increase 7% in 2014 and 2015, adding approximately 1.3 billion pounds of shrimp into the already depressed U.S. market. The entire U.S. industry faces immediate collapse as the current market situation illustrates. The domestic shrimp culture, jobs, revenue and way of life are at risk.

On behalf of shrimp harvesters and processors in Louisiana, I respectfully request that the task force address this situation. There are numerous methods to monitor illegal subsidies and the conditions of trade in the shrimp sector, and these methods should be explored to the furthest extent possible. My office will be glad to provide suggestions on how to monitor and address these illegal practices. Thank you for your consideration.

With warm regards, I am

Sincerely,



Mary L. Landrieu
United States Senator

Attachment 1:

Country	2012 U.S. Imports	Subsidy Margin	Value of Subsidies
China	\$101,948,000	18.16%	\$18,513,757
Ecuador	\$499,690,000	11.68%	\$58,363,792
India	\$551,245,000	10.84%	\$59,754,958
Indonesia	\$634,008,000	0.25% (<i>de minimis</i>)	\$1,585,020
Malaysia	\$142,001,000	54.50%	\$77,390,545
Thailand	\$1,087,958,000	1.46% (<i>de minimis</i>)	\$15,884,187
Vietnam	\$426,153,000	4.52%	\$19,262,116
Total			\$250,754,374

Source: American Shrimp Processors Association